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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KPKO](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [CG](#) [CIAT](#)

SUBJECT: CIAT STATEMENT ON ITURI KILLINGS

1. (U) Ambassadors comprising the International Committee to Accompany the Transition (CIAT) issued a public statement February 28 strongly condemning the killing of nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Ituri by militiamen on February 25. Copies of the communique were given to President Kabila and the four vice-presidents during a meeting with CIAT ambassadors the same day. It appears that about half of those named in the CIAT statement may have already been arrested by the GDRC. The following is an unofficial translation of the CIAT statement:

(Begin Text)

Press Release by the International Committee to Accompany the Transition (CIAT)

1) The CIAT strongly condemns the premeditated assassination of one Bangladeshi officer and eight soldiers by Ituri militia. This attack occurred on February 25 near the locality of Kafe, where MONUC soldiers were protecting 8,000 people displaced by the militia. It was a brutal attack against UN troops whose sole objective is to ensure the security of civilians. It occurred while a CIAT delegation was in the region to evaluate the causes behind the resumption of violence in Ituri.

2) The CIAT is seriously concerned about the illegal and criminal activities of the Ituri militias and their political and military leaders, including those who were recently integrated into the FARDC and who are in Kinshasa. The CIAT refers specifically to Floribert Njabu, president of the FNI, Goda Sukpa, former military commander of the FNI, and Etienne Lona, current military commander of the FNI. It also refers to Thomas Lubanga, president of the UPC and Bosco Ntaganda, military commander of the UPC whose militia wounded several MONUC troops in recent weeks. It also refers to Germain Katanga, leader of the FRPI who is also responsible for the resumption of violence in Ituri and who is also obstructing implementation of justice.

3) The CIAT calls for the immediate bringing to justice of those responsible for the planning and execution of this heinous act. Additionally, the CIAT calls on the transitional government to strengthen its support to local authorities and to the community disarmament and reintegration program in Ituri. It calls on militia members to enroll in this program, which will guarantee their return to normal civilian life. The CIAT warns their respective leaders against any sabotage of this program, which is one of the pacification measures taken within the framework of electoral preparations for the DRC.

4) (The CIAT is composed of the five permanent members of the Security Council (China, The United States, France, Great Britain, and Russia), Belgium, Canada, South Africa, Angola, Gabon, Zambia, The European Union (Commission and Presidency), the African Union (Commission and Presidency) and MONUC.)

Done in Kinshasa, February 28 2005

(End Text)

12. (U) Bujumbura minimized considered.  
MEECE